

REMARKS

In the July 7, 2009 Office Action, claims 1-3 and 12-14 stand rejected in view of prior art. On the other hand, claims 4-11, 15 and 16 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the July 7, 2009 Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 4, 5, 10, 15 and 16 as indicated above to place these claims in independent form. Also, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-3 and 12-14 by the current Amendment. Thus, claims 4-11, 15 and 16 are now pending, with claims 4, 5, 10, 15 and 16 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-295888 (Yamashita et al.). In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-3 and 12-14 as mentioned above. Thus, this rejection is now believed to be moot. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 4-11, 15 and 16 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. In response, Applicant has amended claims 4, 5, 10, 15 and 16 to place these in independent form. Claims 6-9 depend from claim 5, and claim 11 depends from claim 10. Thus, claims 4-11, 15 and 16 are now believed to be allowable.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 4-11, 15 and 16 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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